



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

After the Domestic Violence Prevention Council approved the discussion draft of the plan at its December 2004 meeting, conversations with community partners and stakeholders began in earnest in early January of 2005. Staff made the plan available online. In addition, working closely with the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCCADV), 22 different community groups and programs were contacted to see if they wanted to participate in a briefing and conversation about the plan and/or submit comments. Six groups chose to respond electronically. Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Office and/or KCCADV staff met with another 15 groups, including:

- **Batterer's Intervention Providers**
- **Child Protective Services Domestic Violence Collaboration Group** (comprised of King County Public Health and Child Protective Services of the Department of Social and Health Services [DSHS])
- **City of Seattle's Criminal Justice Collaboration Group** (comprised of City Attorney advocate and prosecution staff, probation and clerical staff, and the Gender Crimes Unit of the Seattle Police Department)
- **Court and Community Advocates** (under the auspices of the VAWA STOP grant)
- **Elder Abuse Council** (comprised of professionals from the Attorney General's Office, the Crisis Clinic, DSHS Adult Protective Services and Residential Care Services, DSHS Senior Services, the King County Sheriff's Office, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Seattle Human Services Department's Aging and Disability Services, Seattle Police Department, Virginia Mason Clinic and the University of Washington's School of Nursing)
- **King County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Unit**
- **King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence**
- **King County Domestic Violence Prevention Council's Coordinating Committee** (comprised of King County Prosecuting Attorneys and Advocates, the King County Department of Judicial Administration's DV Coordinator, the King County Sheriff's Office, the King County Women's Program and a representative of the King County Work First Program, King County Department of Public Health)



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

- **Public Defense Attorneys** (from 4 different agencies and a representative of the Washington Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Director of the King County Office of Public Defense)
- **Strategic Management Team of Seattle's Human Services Department**
- **Seattle Women's Commission**
- **Four different groups of survivors of domestic violence**

The community overall was very impressed by the magnitude and aggressive nature of this plan and applauded the City for its efforts to end domestic violence in our community. Each group provided excellent feedback for consideration by the Assessment Committee. While many of the observations tended to focus on the implementation phase, others have resulted in modifications to the plan. What follows is a summary of some of the key comments and the impact on the strategic plan.

	<b>MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED</b>	<b>IMPLICATIONS FOR PLAN</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Advocacy:</u></b> Several professionals' related liability and credibility concerns over the use of the term " <b>Risk Assessment Tool</b> " which is a clinical term used to describe a scientific, empirically studied mechanism for garnering lethality data for domestic violence situations within the context of a clinical environment.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> The CAO will refer to the tool used by their advocates as a " <b>victim safety inventory</b> ".
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Batterer Intervention:</u></b> Challenges exist for probation officers about determining 'completion.' (as noted on page 28 of the text portion of the plan) This can be addressed by being sure probation has access to WAC 388-60. Sections WAC 388-60-0255 and 388-60-0265 clearly delineate the completion requirements. WAC compliance by all certified programs is mandatory.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> Staff rewrote the section referenced to make the issues clearer.



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

3.	<b><u>Firearms Strategy:</u></b> Federal law already prohibits a respondent in a DV protection order or anyone convicted of a misdemeanor or felony DV offense from legally acquiring or possessing a firearm. State law should be drafted to replicate or enhance federal law which would empower local law enforcement to enforce this provision and not depend on the will of federal prosecutors and law enforcement to act.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> An objective is added to explore legislative change at the state level that will empower SPD and other local law enforcement officials to enforce state law that reflects federal law in this regard.
4.	<b><u>Prosecution Plan:</u></b> The CAO should develop and publish filing and dispositional “guidelines” on DV cases.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> The CAO is currently in the process of developing and will publish filing and dispositional “guidelines” or “standards”. This will be noted in the “Recent Developments” section of the prosecution plan.
5.	<b><u>Prosecution Plan:</u></b> The CAO should develop a “written decline policy” and implement it on all DV cases. This documentation is especially helpful for future prosecutions including homicides and other felony DV cases.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> The CAO is currently in the process of developing and will publish its written decline policy and it will be implemented in all DV cases. This will be noted in the “Recent Developments” section of the Prosecution Plan.
6.	<b><u>Special Populations:</u></b> Given that Seattle Fire and aid (EMT) are vital components to any response, they need to be included in any training on CPS/APS cases.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> Seattle Fire Department and Aid will be added to the “procedural steps” of the groups identified in the “Impact and Readiness Tables” of the plan.



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

7.	<b><u>Special Populations:</u></b> SPD officers should be trained on issues regarding their role in dealing with immigration issues. All officers should receive training on the SPD policy to NOT inquire about immigration status or enforce immigration law. Officers can also be trained in what resources are available for immigrant and refugee victims (including assistance with immigration status), and on what kind of documentation they can provide that will be helpful to victims petitioning for legal status under VAWA.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> Added a new objective under goal #3 - Continue training efforts on immigration and other culturally- or population-specific issues.
8.	<b><u>Victim Defendants:</u></b> Special Populations has a significant intersection with Victim Defendant issues within the specific populations of gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered individuals. Specialized training is needed for police officers, prosecutors and judges in identifying primary aggressors within these populations.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> Specialized training is ongoing within SPD and CAO regarding victim defendants and understanding the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered population's special concerns and issues. New language is added to Objective 5, procedural step #1 "with emphasis on issues of relevance applicable to special populations, including sexual minorities."
9.	<b><u>Victim Defendants:</u></b> Why wait until the end of the case to deal with the wrong person being arrested. This should not be a dispositional issue. It is an issue of investigation by the police and awareness especially in non-traditional populations that don't fit gender stereotypes of the man vs. woman assault.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> Specialized training is ongoing within SPD and CAO regarding victim defendants, and will continue. New language is added to Objective 5, procedural step #1 "with emphasis on issues of relevance applicable to special populations".



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:**  
**CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

10.	<b><u>Miscellaneous:</u></b> What about prevention, civil court system, family court processes, children.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> While most of these issues are beyond the scope of this plan, which is primarily about the criminal justice system, the introduction to the plan has been modified to reference these and other strategic areas the city must address to end domestic violence. The DVPC will take this up in the “Call to Action” work item.
11.	<b><u>Operations:</u></b> The role of the DVPC with respect to plan implementation is not defined.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> The following sentence has been added to the plan in the Introduction section: “The City’s Domestic Violence Prevention Council, as an inter-departmental body of city leaders responsible for city policy and programs, provides the leadership, on-going oversight, and coordination in the City’s efforts to eliminate domestic violence.”
12.	<b><u>Operations:</u></b> Need a mechanism for reporting the status of Plan’s effectiveness and making adjustments in plan; who is responsible for plan implementation.	<b><u>Change:</u></b> The following has been added to the plan in the “Next Steps” section: “Even upon adoption by DVPC and the City Council, this plan will remain a living document. The DVPC’s Criminal Justice Committee will oversee its implementation and facilitate the development of an update for 2007 to address any new or emerging issues and inform our stakeholders and interested parties of progress.”
13.	<b><u>Special Populations:</u></b> The courts need to develop policies that would defer No Contact Orders and protection orders to Juvenile Court engaged in Dependency Actions when children are either the victim or defendant in these criminal cases. Leave the issues of contact with kids to	<b><u>Referral:</u></b> This suggestion will be forwarded to the Seattle Municipal Court for their consideration and the development of a policy from the bench. The Assessment Committee is in concurrence with this recommendation.



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

	the court more capable of addressing these concerns.	
14.	<b><u>Advocacy: Collaborative Advocacy:</u></b> While advocates want to strengthen collaboration between systems-based advocates (City) and community-based advocates, they want to ensure that any collaboration that occurs take into account the need for a “firewall” around community based advocates in order to protect the confidential nature of these advocates’ roles.	<b><u>Implementation Issue:</u></b> Efforts are currently underway to implement a plan to increase opportunities for strengthened collaboration between these two diverse and distinct groups of advocates. The goal is to increase effective service to victims. Protective measures will continue to guard the confidential nature of the work of community-based advocates in these efforts.
15.	<b><u>Batterer Intervention:</u></b> Enforcement of the WAC (388-60) governing BI programs is currently not funded (1.5 FTE for the entire State to certify programs and follow up on complaints) in this State. The City of Seattle should form its own “enforcement” body that would enforce the State codes and refuse to use programs that fail to meet them. In addition, the city should develop a “quality assurance panel” comprised of representatives from all the spheres of the coordinated response to monitor compliance of batterer intervention programs.	<b><u>Implementation Issue:</u></b> The evaluation may reveal these efforts as consistent with a “best practices model” and may result in a new business practice within Seattle’s system.
16.	<b><u>Batterer Intervention :</u></b> How the City defines “success” of BI programs needs to be carefully considered. Qualitative measurements must be the standard of measuring program effectiveness, not quantitative. Cessation of violent and controlling behavior is an outcome to be measured. In measuring success the City should look at what the victims or current partners (those	<b><u>Implementation Issue:</u></b> All care and consideration will be taken by the City in developing the definition of “success” within the context of the BI programs themselves as well as the standards of success within the criminal justice system.



**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

	primary partners still involved in some capacity in a batterer's life) are saying a year after treatment about the perpetrator's behavior in regard to the efficacy of treatment.	
17.	<b><u>Batterer Intervention:</u></b> When considering the use of BI as a sanction the City should consider the models of other "problem solving courts" such as King County's Drug Court which incorporates a "wrap-around services" model to identify and address each of the defendant/client's specific and unique needs/challenges or potential impediments to success. These concerns range from financial challenges (ability to pay for treatment) to multiple diagnosis (chemical dependency, mental health disorders, etc.) to cultural and linguistic barriers to successful entry and completion of the various programs. The "one size fits all" approach to BI is ineffective and a set-up for failure for many individuals.	<b><u>Implementation Issue:</u></b> The evaluation identified in the plan may lead to consideration of comparative models, which may result in a change in business practice within Seattle's system.
18.	<b><u>Prosecution Plan:</u></b> Standardized and published sentencing guidelines could have a negative impact on victims of DV in such cases as immigrants, elder and vulnerable adult cases, etc. since some of these cases require a specialized approach to minimize harm to the victims.	<b><u>Implementation Issue:</u></b> The CAO takes very seriously the negative impact to the extra vulnerable victims in its caseload and would therefore keep these sentencing standards only as guidelines, not inflexible protocols that must be enforced.
19.	<b><u>Special Populations:</u></b> Is the Community Education	<b><u>Implementation Issue:</u></b> The plan identifies seniors and vulnerable



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

	Campaign inclusive of elders and vulnerable adults? There needs to be specialized focus on this group when doing community education.	adults among the populations affected by DV and subjects of the campaign. The unique concerns of each of the populations noted will be taken into account when crafting the campaign.
20.	<b><u>Vision Statement:</u></b> “ <i>Seattle will one day be a community where domestic violence <u>does not exist</u>. It will be a place...</i> ” A group noted that it would be more realistic, attainable, more credible and potentially more attractive to potential funding sources if the statement were modified to read, “ <i>Seattle will one day be a community where domestic violence <u>is no longer tolerated</u>...</i> ”	<b><u>No Change.</u></b> After much discussion with many other groups, including the HSD Strategic Management Team and the Assessment Committee of the Domestic Violence Prevention Council, the current statement meets the definition of a more measurable and definable, albeit aggressive, vision statement.
21.	<b><u>Advocacy: Roles of the Advocate:</u></b> Reiterated, over several meetings, was the concern that advocates primary role remain focused on victim safety and system accountability. Concerns ranged from advocates getting caught up in investigatory and prosecutorial duties to advocates needing professional training in their subject matter.	<b><u>No Change.</u></b> The Plan underscores the commitment within SPD and CAO to keep the focus of the advocates on victim safety and system accountability. Within CAO, they will not be determining whether prosecution is appropriate. They gather information from victims, and advise attorneys about the level of risk faced by the victim and express their opinion about what steps would be in the best interest of the victim. The advocates with their extensive experience are uniquely qualified for this role. Attorneys continue to make filing decisions.
22.	<b><u>Batterer Intervention:</u></b> Concerns exist over the	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The strategic plan specifically states in its goal that





**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

	evaluation that will be conducted by the City to determine the efficacy and use of BI treatment as a sanction within Seattle's Coordinated Community response system. Concerns focused on the efficacy and validity of this evaluation given the existence of other research available as well as concern over the narrow and ineffective evaluation of the treatment modality and providers outside the context of the Coordinated Community Response system.	this evaluation will focus on the unique application of Batterer's Intervention within Seattle's Coordinated Community Response and the use of batterer's treatment by those systems for a specific determination of how it is working as a sanction within Seattle's system. Current national research does not specifically address the Seattle system. Care will be taken to look at the interactions of the various agencies' (courts, probation and prosecution) use and referral to BI programs as a sanction within Seattle's Criminal Justice System.
23.	<b><u>Batterer Intervention:</u></b> Batterer intervention professionals should be listed under "Responsible Parties/Milestones" in the Objectives of the "Impact and Readiness Tables".	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> "Responsible Parties" are city departments with authority and responsibility to implement City policy and programs. Community stakeholders will have opportunity to participate with implementation as members of DVPC committees.
24.	<b><u>Investigations:</u></b> Primary suggestions related to the incorporation of patrol and patrol command staff in policy and planning decisions on DV protocols. Mechanisms for positive and (limited) negative feedback to patrol on performance and investigation quality need to be instituted.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> These measures are already in existence within SPD.
25.	<b><u>Investigations:</u></b> Command staff needs to distinguish the time allotment for investigation of DV offenses from other less intensive cases. Current practices accommodate	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> Patrol staff is given the time necessary to report effectively on DV crimes.



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

	this with DUI investigations and should be allowed for effective DV investigations.	
26.	<b><u>Investigations:</u></b> SPD should join regional efforts to standardize their DV Supplemental form with other jurisdictions.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> Recent changes to the DV Supplemental form have already been adopted and sent to the printer. In the future, the SPD's IT system will become a "paperless" system eliminating the use of the DV Supplemental form at that time. This system, however, will provide more capacity for reporting on critical issues.
27.	<b><u>Investigations:</u></b> The DV Fugitive Apprehension Team is not mentioned in the plan and concerns about staffing.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The Assessment acknowledges the fact that SPD disbanded the team in 2002 and assigned DV warrant service coordination to a detective in the DV Unit. It recommends the results of the DV warrant service be reported to the DVPC. Regarding staffing, the staffer responsible for SPD's fugitive warrant efforts is not the lead staff on firearms. Collaboration occurs to assure effective development and implementation of firearm policies and procedures with respect to warrants.
28.	<b><u>Prosecution Plan:</u></b> Confusion and concern exist over the definition of the terminology "prosecution that is in the best interest of the victim". Does this mean going back to pre-1984 days when an uncooperative victim spelled the end of a case? Will the CAO still operate from the paradigm of a Coordinated Community Response model?	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The CAO's policy doesn't at all mean going back in time to the days before a Coordinated Community Response model, but simply wants to acknowledge that more care and attention will be given to the victim's best interest in the decision to proceed with prosecution.
29.	<b><u>Prosecution Plan:</u></b> The CAO should develop standards	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The CAO already has standards for its HRO program.



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

	for its High Risk Offender Program.	
<b>30.</b>	<p><b><u>Prosecution Plan:</u></b> There appears to be little way of identifying high-risk and repeat offenders and of defining different strategies for dealing with them. Recommend the development of a system for tracking them. The City should also examine existing legislation and work with SPD to better utilize the “three strikes law” in cases of repeat offenders.</p>	<p><b><u>No Change:</u></b> The City Attorney has developed a victim safety inventory to identify risks faced by a victim. The office combines this tool with objective criteria to identify defendants for the high-risk offender program. These criteria allow attorneys the flexibility to include truly dangerous defendants in the program. In addition to its case files, the office maintains advocate files on all defendants. This practice was identified and praised in the assessment. The advocates have information that is much more extensive than a mere criminal history. This information is used to more effectively prosecute repeat offenders.</p> <p>The City Attorney’s office obtains a complete criminal history for every defendant. This includes all recorded information on any prior offense anywhere in the nation. The decision whether to charge a repeat offender with a felony is made by the King County Prosecutor. The City of Seattle has no control over those decisions.</p>
<b>31.</b>	<p><b><u>Prosecution Plan:</u></b> The prosecution policy appears to have changed significantly by eliminating the ‘No-drop’ policy the City has followed for over 10 years. This was not a finding supported by the Assessment. In “No-drop,” the City prosecutes perpetrators regardless of the wishes of the victim. If this policy is abandoned, victims will be pressured by the perpetrators to drop charges.... By</p>	<p><b><u>No Change:</u></b> The City Attorney’s Office has not abandoned no-drop prosecution. For cases that the office files, this remains the office policy with particular emphasis in high-risk offender cases. The office has adopted a more sophisticated screening mechanism that recognizes that the criminal justice system is not the solution for every victim. The net result of these changes has actually been an increase in the filing rate of domestic violence cases for the first</p>



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:**  
**CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

	changing this policy, there will be an implicit endorsement of the idea that DV is a personal matter, not a crime which affects larger society and must be prosecuted as such.	two months of 2005. The Seattle City Attorney's office is absolutely committed to the prosecution of domestic violence. The City Attorney's office does not now and has never endorsed the proposition that domestic violence is a personal matter.
32.	<b><u>Sanctions:</u></b> The goal of a coordinated community response would be to ensure that every probationer who failed to comply with treatment requirements received appropriate justice system consequences. Probationers who fail to meet their batterer intervention program requirements must receive justice system consequences.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> Since the implementation of a specialized DV Probation unit, the probation department forwards notice of violation of conditions of sentence (or SOC) to the court within 7 days. Much more consistent and graduated sanctions for offenders who fail to complete BI or any other condition of their sanction from the court is beginning to occur with the inception of the DV Court in 2004.
33.	<b><u>Sanctions:</u></b> Judges need ongoing and continuing education on Domestic Violence.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The particular judges assigned to DV Court within SMC are some of the best trained judges on the subject on the bench. Many of the judges do participate in ongoing legal education for judges on domestic violence issues.
34.	<b><u>Sanctions:</u></b> Offenders who commit serious domestic violence crimes should do serious jail time. (e.g. several survivors referenced personal experiences where crimes that were of felony level injuries received less than 60 days in jail as a punishment).	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> While frustrations exist and will likely continue, various issues prevent courts of limited jurisdiction from implementing standardized, determinate sentences which would prescribe specific sentences for certain crimes. This would not work well at this court level and should not be considered given the unique challenges that exist to prosecutors, judges and defense attorneys at this jurisdictional level.



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

35.	<b><u>Sanctions:</u></b> Longer periods of jurisdiction need to be available for the court to ensure that defendants get the kind of treatment and the time necessary to successfully complete such treatment. DUI offenders who receive 5 years of probation are an example to replicate for this legislation.	<b><u>No change:</u></b> One of the objectives in the BI Plan is “Explore advocating at the state legislative level for DV extensive supervision, similar to jurisdictional enhancements for DUI offenders”.
36.	<b><u>Special Populations:</u></b> This component is such a large and complicated conglomerate of issues that the City should consider breaking this portion up into the various populations represented in this portion. For example, elders and vulnerable adults, children, immigrants and ESL populations, etc. should each have their own separate place in the plan.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> While each of these areas has their own unique area of concern, the providers and professionals within the various agencies of the criminal justice system believe that becoming proficient in each of these areas make them more effective practitioners and more able to truly execute their duties holding batterers/perpetrators accountable and meeting the unique safety needs of each diverse victim population.
37.	<b><u>Special Populations:</u></b> Permanent position within the CAO and SPD for elder abuse investigation and prosecution should be a part of the long term planning of the City.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The CAO & SPD currently have staff attorney/detective positions designated to crimes against elderly and vulnerable adults. While in the CAO, this position does go through the regular rotation cycle of the office, keeping this position in the regular rotation cycle increases the overall awareness of the practitioners within the CAO.
38.	<b><u>Victim Defendants:</u></b> Defense and community based victims advocates can work more closely to ameliorate and address these concerns. Need mechanisms for establishing this relationship.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> Efforts are currently underway to build working relationships between defense and community based advocates to ameliorate the impact of criminal charges on the victims. Also see objective #3.



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

39.	<b><u>Special Populations:</u></b> Language interpretation and other considerations affecting immigrant and refugee women are not part of the plan.	<b><u>Change/No Change:</u></b> New language in the Introduction is added affirming Seattle's commitment to carrying out state law about the availability of qualified interpreters. The plan already included an objective to advocate for on-going, and increased, federal, state and regional support for several types of services, including interpreter services. Lastly, the City has supported the Multi-Lingual Access Project, using federal Violence Against Women funds. The City has submitted a request to the federal Violence Against Women Office for continued support.
40.	<b><u>Special Populations:</u></b> The Plan includes other populations in its focus such as elder abuse and child abuse, but it is not clear in which instances these problems will be addressed. Not all elder abuse and child abuse situations are domestic violence and the service providers are different for each group.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The plan addresses this issue. One of the goals of the plan is "to improve collaboration across systems and agencies that work with children, seniors and vulnerable adults in order to create safety....." For example, as part of the implementation of the plan, the City will participate in the King County regional inter-agency team to develop protocols for working with children affected by domestic violence. One of the leads in this inter-agency collaborative is Child Protective Services. A similar effort will occur with respect to elder abuse. The city will participate in the King County Elder Abuse Council.
41.	<b><u>Miscellaneous:</u></b> Involvement of community service providers / Perpetrator Treatment	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The safety audit and the DV plan focus primarily on city, not community-based, services, processes and practices. Still, staff conversed with 15 stakeholders, including community-based providers. With respect to Batterer Intervention, the objective is to analyze current practice in the city and the results of the practice. This analysis will engage providers, probation counselors, defense



City of Seattle

**TABLE B:  
CITY OF SEATTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: PROCESS & SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

		attorneys, prosecutors and advocates. It will try to determine what is working, what is not working and why. It will also look at client/offender-specific data, and take into consideration best practice. A report with recommendation will be submitted to the DVPC.
42.	<b><u>Operations:</u></b> The City used an independent, out-of-state agency to conduct the DV Assessment. The City should use an independent expert or agency to review the strategic plan	<b><u>No Action:</u></b> Many of the Assessment reports were based on the results of a safety audit. A safety audit is a specialized file review process. The City hired consultants with expertise in this process. These consultants advised the City on the audit and conducted many of the file reviews themselves. The City has expertise sufficient to develop and implement a plan based on the recommendations of the audit.
43.	<b><u>Operations:</u></b> The structure for collaboration and coordination between various City Departments is not well defined.	<b><u>No Change:</u></b> The DVPC use committees, including city staff and members of the community, to implement items on its work plan. With respect to the DV Plan, the department leads for each action item are identified in the plan.